

The next morning, same thing. And the next. On the fourth day the security people gave us clearance before boarding pass was obtained; we had all got to know each other. But still no airplane.

On the fifth day a 737 did arrive. We piled into it – it was a Calcutta flight. The captain came across on the intercom. To make a safe take-off he would leave the luggage behind. There was a roar of protest. By now about half the flight were the accumulated tourists who had already missed their flight back to Europe or the USA; their expectations of getting luggage back that had been left in the Andamans were realistically low. A “people power” committee was formed and went to remonstrate with the captain. He took the point and decided to lighten the load by expelling local passengers: “Bannerji J., Chauderi, C., Singh, J. S., etc will please leave the aircraft and claim their baggage”.

Then: “Ladies and gentlemen. Our crew flying time has elapsed. We will fly tomorrow morning”. This message was deeply disbelieved by our “people power” team; they suspected that the crew would fly the plane back to Calcutta without us. So 25 Europeans and North Americans blocked the wheels of the aircraft till we saw the crew safely removed by an Indian Airlines van. And we went back to our hotel. Gandhi protesys in reverse.

The next morning we did leave. Things had become so friendly that I left without a formal security clearance (but then there were six cancelled ones in my passport). We arrived in Calcutta. Wisely, the ground staff had left; 50 or 60 people wanting bookings AND rebooking of international flights?

The cyclone had brought down all means of communication, and they were still down in Calcutta. I had missed my Bombay briefing. But my notes from a planning meeting three months ago suggested I ought to be in Lucknow tomorrow.

So I decided to go to Lucknow. At check-in I was given “chance-list 186”. I went looking for “higher-ups” and was eventually upgraded to “priority before chance-list”. In the event the Lucknow flight left with 18 passengers. There was a consensus that I must have been booked into the one luxury hotel in town, as indeed I was, and a colleague arrived the following day. All is well that ends well.– TORBEN B. LARSEN, Bangladesh, World Bank, 1818 H. Street N.W., Washhington D.C., 20433, USA.

***Dorycera graminum* (Fabricius) (Dipt.: Ulidiidae) in Kent – an update**

Dorycera graminum was recently the subject of a special study (Ismay, J. W., 2000. The status, distribution and biology of *Dorycera graminum* (Fabricius) (Diptera, Ulidiidae). *English Nature Research Reports* **395**: 1-19). As fieldwork by the author was undertaken in 1999 it is, perhaps, pertinent to place on record some further records which have come to my attention.

On 20.v.2000, further specimens were found widely along the Grain foreshore area of North Kent where it had been recorded previously by Donisthorpe in 1932, myself in 1993 (*Ent. Rec.* **106**: 138) and Ismay in 1999. The latter regarded this area to be the best site for the species amongst those investigated although its future is uncertain in view of substantial developments proposed for the Hoo Peninsula. I swept two

graminum from a hawthorn tree growing beside the B.260 road at LaneEnd, Darent on 18.vi.2000. On 9.vi.2001, the species was swept in abundance from the lower branches of Lombardy Poplar growing in the grounds and nearby grassland of Leigh Technology College, Dartford. Recently, among some insect photographs passed to me for identification by Mrs Pat Allen, was a further example photographed on 27.v.1999 in her garden at Lympne. Finally on 20.vi.2002 a single specimen was found squashed on one of the picnic seats at Grain.

A summary of the known Kent records is presented below.

1840 Harrietsham TQ85 (VC 15) J. F. Stephens; 19.vi.1896 Bearsted TQ75 (VC 15) E. E. Green; 1936 Wye & Crundale Downs TR0949 (VC 15) C. G. Lamb; 1961 Hook Farm, Bromley, TQ413676 (VC 16) P. J. Chandler; 1963 Oakley Farm Bromley TQ4166 (VC 16) P. J. Chandler; 11.vi.1904 Huntingfield TQ95 (not TR05 as stated by Ismay) (VC 15) A.J. Chitty; 8.vi.1909 Dartford TQ57 (VC 16) J. W. Yerbury; 13.vi.1909 Dartford TQ57 (VC 16) J.W. Yerbury; 14.vi.1912 Dartford TQ57 (VC 16) J. W. Yerbury; vii.1932 Port Victoria, Grain TQ87 (VC 16) H.St. John K. Donisthorpe; 30.vi.1941 Ashford TR0044 (VC 15) G. Waller; 1.vi.1942 Ashford TR0044 (VC 15) G. Waller; 6.vi.1946 Eltham TQ47 (VC 16) H.W. Andrews; 11.vi.1946 Eltham TQ47 (VC 16) H. W. Andrews; 30.v.1949 Boughton Aluph TR04 (VC 15) H.W. Miles; 4.vi.1956 Sittingbourne TQ96 (VC 15) J.C. Felton; 13.vi.1992 Kingsnorth TQ8173 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 6.vi.1993 Grain TQ8877 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 5.vii.1995 Northfleet TQ6173 (VC 16) C.W. Plant; 6.vi.1996 Hither Green TQ3974 (VC 16 not 17 as stated by Ismay) R. A. Jones; 7.vii.1996 Church Marshes, Milton TQ9165 (In the Appendix Ismay gave the grid reference as TQ913655, presumably because he had visited the site. However the grid reference given on page 13 was TQ913654) (VC 15) L. Clemons (Recorder not recorded by Ismay); 15.v.1999 Preston Court TR242605 (VC 15) L. Clemons; 14.vi.1999 Grain TQ883772 (VC 16) J.W. Ismay; 12.vi.1999 Horton Kirby TQ558684 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 20.v.2000 Grain TQ888771 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 20.v.2000 Grain TQ892763 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 18.vi.2000 Lane End, Darent TQ571711 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 27.v.1999 Walnut Tree Cottage, Lympne TR12253540 (VC 15) P. Allen; 9.vi.2001 Dartford; Leigh Technology College. TQ55157331 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 9.vi.2001 Dartford; scrub and grassland west of Leigh Technology College. TQ54937328 (VC 16) L. Clemons; 20.vi.2002 Grain TQ891767 (VC16) L. Clemons.– LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

A record of the Buff Footman *Eilema depressa* Esper (Lep.: Arctiidae) from Killarney, Co. Kerry

John Lavery and I visited Derrycunihy Wood, Killarney, on 17.v.1999, to beat the oaks for Lepidoptera and Coleoptera and it was while engaged in this activity that a single larva of *Eilema depressa* (= *deplana* (Esper)), was dislodged from a lichen-covered oak bough. Possible identification was possible by reference to Porter's *Colour Identification of Caterpillars of the British Isles* (1997). Unfortunately, the larva did not survive more than a few days, even though frass was noted in the container in which it was retained.